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FIRST OF ITS KIND FROM KERALA

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- FRENCH OMELETTE

CULTURAL eMAGAZINE
INKOCHI
FIRST OF ITS KIND FROM KERALA

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Editor's Note

POORAM, VELA, UTSAVAM IN KERALA

When we hear about Kerala, the things that comes to our mind are lust green surroundings, Backwaters of Alleppey, Tea plantations of Munnar and the likes of such touristy attractions which are well promoted and highly advertised by the state tourism, under the Gods own country tag. Though all this is very appealing and really amazing to look forward to, there is a whole new experience which is not that well promoted. I am talking about the Temple Festivals(Pooram, Vela and Utsavams) of Kerala.

Being a state with a large number of temples, annual festivals are associated with almost all the temples in Kerala. Some of the renowned temple festivals are a treat to watch. It is a visual treat, a treat to your ears and to the soul. It a feast of extravagant aura and abundance. It is a very raw experience of Kerala that you be able to come across if you get a chance to attend any one of these festivals and if its your first time experience I bet it would be a soul-soothing one.

Pooram is a cultural festival mainly for the temple authorities to celebrate their importance and hard work and also praising the Lord. In their display of power what we get to see is an extravagant event. As all the temples have different deities, every pooram has its own customs and traditions that the temples believe, however the custom of decorating the elephants and playing music is common to all.

Happy Reading...!!
Varghese T. Thomas

5 Prettiest Riverside Cities You Need To Visit In India

By Shreya Ghosh / Curlytales

Most of our travel destinations are mostly beaches, mountains, forests, and different country lives. One thing that most of us often miss out on is the places along the riverside. Villages, towns, and cities along the rivers are the most mystical and extraordinary. These riverside cities hold so much beauty and offer a lot to explore, from scenic beauty to adventures to new experiences in addition. Let’s take a look at India’s most stunning riverside cities and plan the next refreshing trip.

1. **Dandeli- River Kali**

To all the adventure enthusiasts out there, Dandeli is a must-visit destination to venture into. Situated amidst the breathtaking beauty of lush green jungles, Dandeli is a feast for the eyes. Just near the river, you can go river rafting, trekking, camping, kayaking, coracle rides, bird watching, and also experience bonfires. >>

5 Prettiest Riverside Cities You Need To Visit In India

2. Kabini- River Kabini

Away from the hustle-bustle of Karnataka city, lies Kabini by the river Kabini. Experience the best of nature here and spend moments in serenity. There are places like Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park, Jungle Safari, and much more, in addition, to travel to. It is a lifetime experience to see rare lives like deer gaur, elephants, and many such animals. For the adventure enthusiast in you, try camping by the riverside and river rafting.

3. Chadar- River Zanskar

The magic and aura of Chadar alongside the river Zanskar are simply blissful. This river stays frozen for most of the months and hence it has grown to become one of the most popular destinations for trekking. Chadar trek is such a thrilling and lifelong experience.

4. Papikondalu- Godavari River

Nestled in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh, Papikondalu is one of the prettiest riverside cities in India. To take a deep dive into nature among the mountains, visiting Papikondalu is a must. To experience the charm of the place, you need to visit here between October and February as the temperature rises in the summer months.

5. Bheemeshwari- Cauvery River

For a small trip near Bangalore, Bheemeshwari near the Cauvery river is a great option. Full of adventure, this place is heaven for people who loves to fish. Apparently, this place is the home to Mahseer fishes and fishing here is a magical experience. Moreover, you can even explore kayaking and mountain biking at this destination.

<>

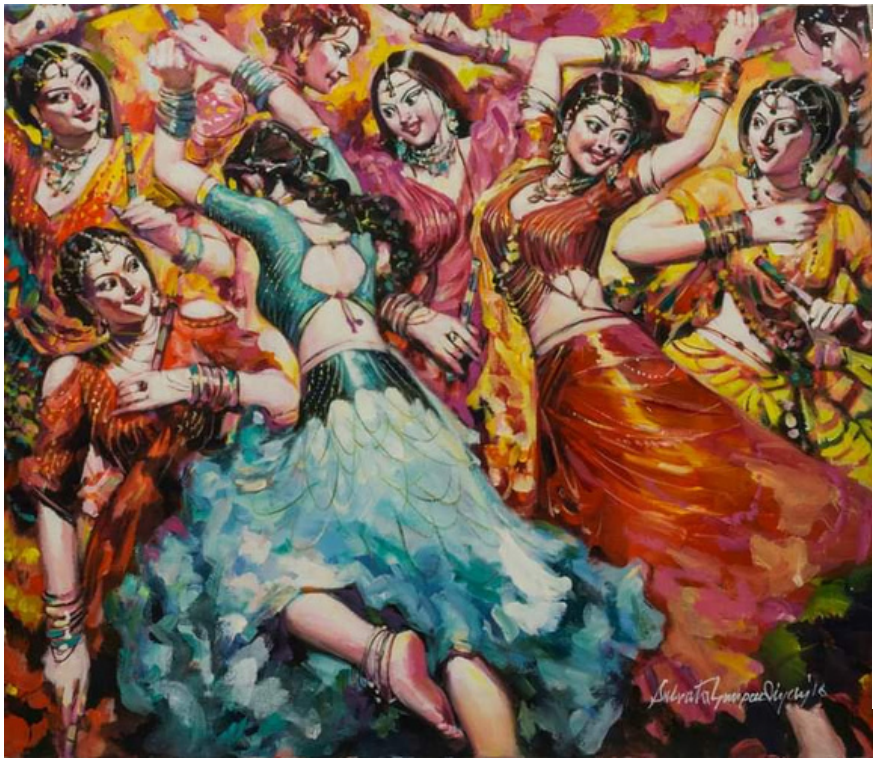
Subrata Gangopadhyay

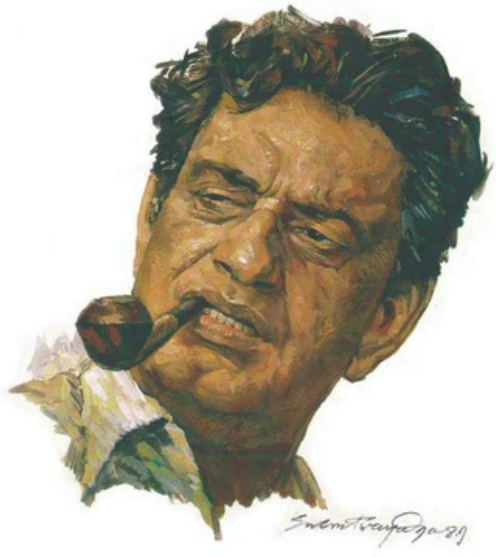
The rich, subtle & diverse dimension of human reality are explored by with dramatic intensity.

Born in 1959, with the bold vigorous strokes in his energetic yet sensuous figures reflecting their abandonment & exuberance this magical painter creates a great sense of drama for the viewer, that you can almost hear the lilting strain of the music whether it’s his musicians immersed in 'Alaap', or the geity, rhythm & enthusiasm of the Dancing Women of Gujarat performing Garba, or whether it is his Masked figures concealing their pain while laughing on the world's stage. >>

Subrata Gangopadhyay

The rich, subtle & diverse dimension of human reality are explored by with dramatic intensity. Subrata's women are all of these - charming 'adorable, seductive, vulnerable... compass-ionate... as with great controlled skill he expresses their moods through their eyes, smile & open body language. Each canvass is an excellent blend of technique & feeling as it evokes a nostalgic mood, each element expresses and emotional involvement - such is the charm & magic of his canvasses just as overwhelming is the variety of his work done. >>



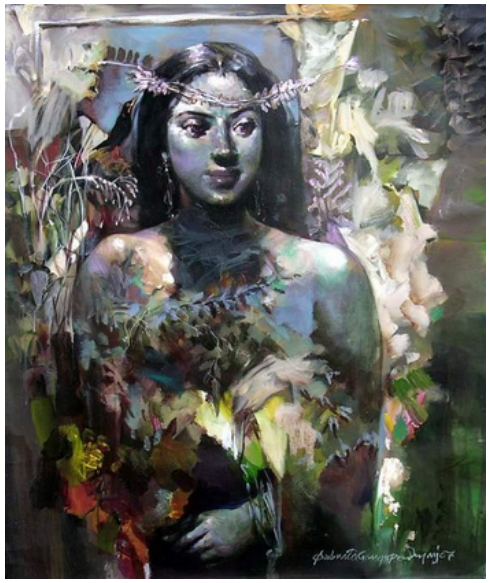


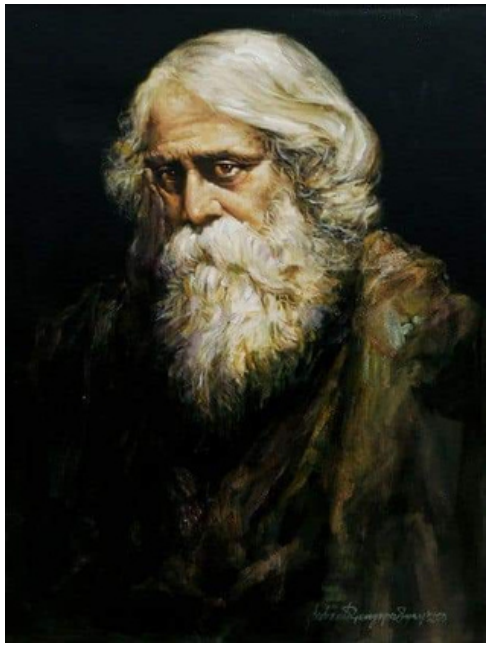
Subrata Gangopadhyay

Undoubtedly a Master painter he is also a distinguished portrait artist, who paints in a mixed style within the broad expressionist format, standing firmly on the solid technical foundation derived form his training in academic realism. Brushwork ranges form smoothly realistic to the patchy impastos of vibrant expressionist bristles.

ART EDUCATION

Graduated in 1980 form Government College of Art & Craft, Kolkata First class First Diploma in Paintings. <>





Artwork: Sara Hussain - Acrylic - 6x3 ft

THRISSUR POORAM

Source: TuskTravel

Very well-known as **“God’s own country”,** Kerala is a lovely and beautiful place in India for its rich greenery and pleasant atmosphere. When it comes to traditions and cultures, **Kerala** finds the best with its unique culture and rituals. Different festivals and fairs of Kerala stand as major attractions for travelers to visit the place. Among numerous famous festivals, the **Thrissur Pooram festival of Kerala** takes place during summers holds great attraction for its spectacular celebrations. Compared to the different Poorams of Kerala Thrissur Pooram is quite popular. >>

The pooram (festival) is the celebration of a group of 10 neighboring temples around Thrissur town. Today, Thrissur Pooram is famous among all the Poorams of Kerala.

THRISSUR POORAM

Now we go in deep to know about the prominence and attractions of the festival in detail. Let's check in on what made this festival popular among all in Kerala.

About the Thrissur Pooram Festival:

Pooram means "Temple Festival", the festival takes place at the Vadukkannathan Swamy Temple in Thrissur town. Every year during April and May this famous festival will take place and also this festival is known as "Summer harvest festival". The dates of the festival will be fixed as per the Malayalam calendar in the month of Medam. Continuously for a week, the celebrations of the festival will light up the Thrissur town full of festivities and appear in a vibrant look.

The festival is the celebration of a group of 10 neighboring temples around Thrissur divided into two groups namely Thiruvambady and Paramekkav. The festival begins between these two groups by challenging themselves in showcasing elephant caparisons and fireworks. From the early morning to the evening, the festival will take place with a display of wonderful arts and performances between the two. At the venue of the festival, you can experience a beautiful and unforgettable visual treat. >>

THRISSUR POORAM

What history says about the Thrissur Pooram:

During the 18th and 19th centuries, this festival was inaugurated by **Raja Rama Verma, who is the king of Cochin**. It is a 200-year-old festival. The reason behind the formation of the Thrissur Pooram festival is Arattupuzha Pooram. Why because at that time there was only one Pooram which is Arattupuzha Pooram in Arattupuzha. All surrounding regions and Thrissur people were used to visiting the Pooram every year.

But once due to heavy rains, Thrissur people were late for the festival. Then they were not allowed to participate in the festival. This made the people of Thrissur angry and went to King Raja Rama Verma for justice. Then he gave a solution to the Thrissur and its surrounding villages people to celebrate their own Temple festival. >>

He ordered the 10 temples surrounding Thrissur to bring their deities to Vadakkunnathan Temple to celebrate a massive temple festival. From the day this Thrissur Pooram festival was started it gained huge popularity with its mass celebrations. Today, Thrissur Pooram is famous among all the Poorams of Kerala even Arattupuzha.

The prominence of the festival:

The main importance of this Pooram is here you can experience the perfect view of Unity in Diversity. Even it is a Hindu festival every religion will take part in the festival. A very interesting thing about the festival is the ornaments prepared for the celebrations were made by churches and the pandal decorations will be decorated by Islamic community people. Like the way here you can see the significance of Unity in Diversity. By this festival, all the surrounding villagers will gather at one stage to celebrate the event lavishly. With these huge gatherings, villagers had a good connection among themselves in carrying the festival. In the process, the festival builds a good relationship among the neighboring regions. >>

THRISSUR POORAM

How the celebrations will be carried out:
The celebrations of the festival begin a week before the festival to make the occasion vibrant and marvelous. As per the mythological stories, the theme of the festival is to celebrate the visit of Devi to Lord Shiva housed in Vadakkunnathan Temple. Because of this reason, the venue of Pooram will be decorated stunning and spectacular. Simply you can't describe its beauty in words. Another important thing about the ornaments and decoration of the festival is they won't use any single thing for next year's festival. Alike in man aspects and things, Thrissur Pooram had gained mass popularity in Kerala.

THRISSUR POORAM

During the ceremony, the two groups facing each other exchange their ornamented umbrellas or parasols brought on by elephants. **The name "Kuda" means Umbrella and "Mattom"** means Change. It is the Kudamattom ceremony, a crowd-puller of the Pooram. >>

Next, **Ilanjithara Melam** is the key attraction of the celebration. At the Ilanji tree in Vadakku-nnathan temple, this act will take place. It is a wonderful Melam to experience at the festival. With perfect rhythmic percussions, the Mellam will be proceeded by the artists. It is a traditional act of Keralites. Another wonderful musical performance Panchavadyam is also a key attraction. It is a group of five percussions with wind instruments musical performance, which is a lovely one to enjoy. Overall, Kudamattom, Melam, Panchavadyam, and many things of the festival glorify its beauty and charisma. With all these, Thrissur Pooram remarked as the largest gathering festival in Asia.

THRISSUR POORAM

After completing all the processions and rituals, the festival comes to an end with the Punacharam Cholli Piriyal ceremony. All the 10 temple idols that came from surrounding villages will be sent back to their respective temples. At last with a grand ceremony of firing the firecrackers without a break known as Pakal Vedikkettu the temple festival will be ended.

From the morning beginning with a wonderful musical play to the evening massive fireworks, the Thrissur Pooram festival of Kerala created an impact for its grandiosity and crowd-pulling. >>

Attractions of the festival:

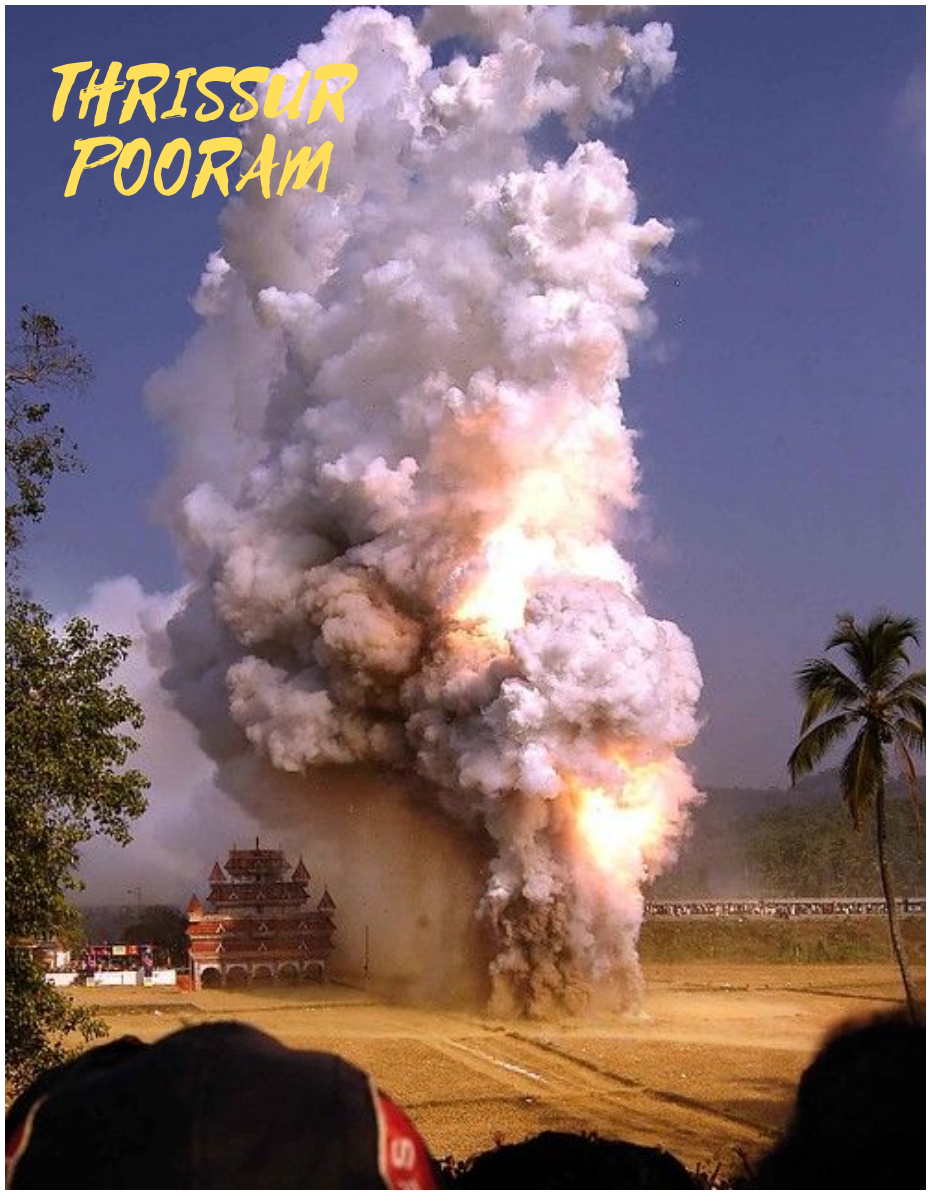
The major attractions of the temple mean undoubtedly its musical performances and traditional acts. Madathil Varavu, Kudamattom, Ilanjithara Melam, Panchavadyam, and many stand as major attractions to witness in the festival. Especially the decorations of ornamented elephants, parasols, and fireworks will be the unforgettable experiences of the festival. In Thrissur City exhibition of ornaments and decorations of the temple will be displayed it is also a wonderful attraction of the festival. So don't forget to visit the exhibition. Simply the culture and old traditions of the festival are the key highlights of the Pooram. >>

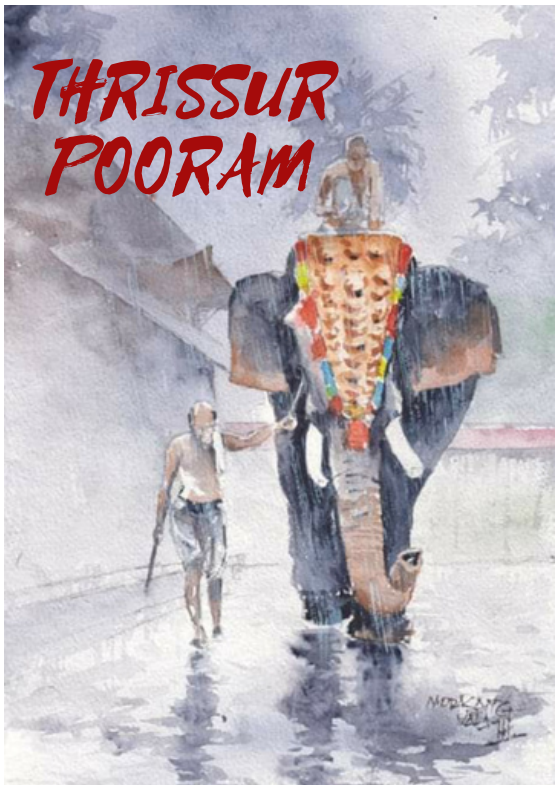
Where the festival will be celebrated:

Sri Vadakkunnathan Temple is located in the center of Thrissur city. This temple is the venue of the festival celebrations every year. To reach the temple, it is very close to the railway station and airport. Thrissur Railway station is 2km away and Cochin International Airport is just 6 km away from the temple. By regular buses or hiring a cab within a few minutes, we can reach the temple.

Conclusion:

This is all about the beauty of Kerala's Thrissur Pooram. If you want to enjoy the culture, mass gatherings, wonderful musical performances, traditional dances, elephant marches, and a lot more means, Thrissur Pooram is a lovely and must-experienceable festival in Kerala. Are you interested to join the festival? So lock a few days of May and enjoy the festival with love. <>





Artwork: Mopasang Valath - Watercolour

Text: Indulekha Aravind

What makes temple elephants so popular in Kerala

In Kerala, temple elephants inspire the kind of fan following reserved for movie stars elsewhere.

A ceremony on the death anniversary of an elephant, attended by other tuskers, might sound odd to many, but in Thrissur no one would bat an eyelid. Throw a stone in Thrissur or Palakkad district and chances are you will hit an elephant devotee, who will be able to reel off not just the names but trivia about various captive elephants, dead and alive, discuss their merits and demerits and express dissatisfaction if they haven't been able to spend some time with an elephant for a few days.

"Elephants in Kerala, especially central Kerala, are like dogs in British society. No other society is as attached to elephants, probably anywhere in the world," says writer NS Madhavan. It's a bond that has been fostered over the ages, by a number of factors. In Kerala, elephants were procured both for timber trade and temple festivals, the only Indian state where this has become a common practice. While Kerala has always had a significant population of wild elephants (currently the third highest in India, at over 3,000), they would be bought from as far as away as Sonepur in Bihar, especially once capture was banned in the country under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972. <>

THRISSUR POORAM

In A First, Woman To Recieve 'Poruthu' To Light Up Firework Display At Thrissur Pooram

Image courtesy: manoramaonline

The ritual of 'Poruthu' entails handing over the gunpowder-coated wick used to light the firework display to the assigned contractors. For the first time in the Pooram's history, a woman has received the position.

The ritual of 'Poruthu' entails handing over the gunpowder-coated wick used to light the firework display to the assigned contractors. For the first time in the Pooram's history, a woman received the Poruthu at the Vadakkumnathan temple.

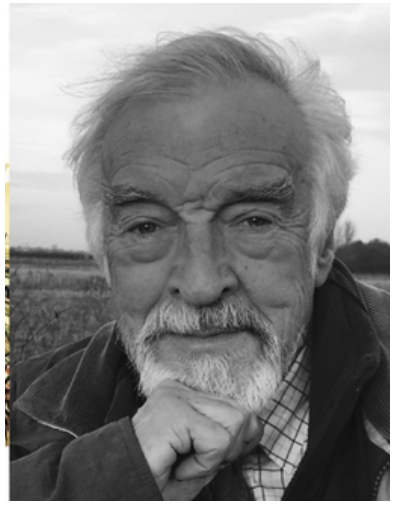
Sheena Suresh, a resident of Kundannur, near Wadakkanchery in Thrissur, holds the firework license for the temple of Thiruvambadi, one of the two main organisers of the Pooram. Suresh has a pyrotechnic experience of over 20 years and has been backstage for countless displays, but now she is the team lead, a position reserved for men since the beginning, reported The New Indian Express.

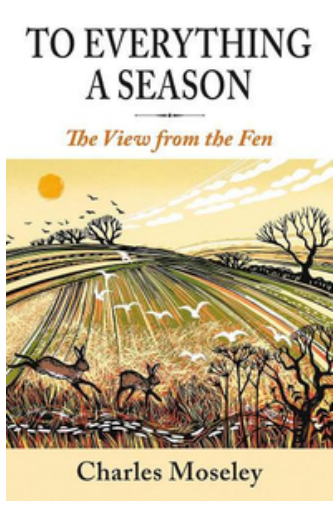
Sheena was introduced to pyrotechnics when she married into the Panthalangatt family, who had been making fireworks for decades. She had lost her husband Kundannur Sundaran when the sample firework display for the 2004 Thrissur Pooram was happening, and an accident took place. A tragic coincidence, but he was in charge of the fireworks display at the same Thiruvambadi temple that year. <>

Source: Logical Indian

About The Book

Source: Topping Books, UK.





Charles Moseley as he tells us about his new book, To Everything a Season, a beautifully crafted personal and reflective account of many years of the changing seasons, from autumn to autumn, in and around a village on the edge of the Cambridge Fenland. It is an uplifting reflection about change: what was, what is, what will be.

It is about the miracle of the rich gift of life. It is also about death, loss, and the rebirth of the old into something rich and strange.

But it is also a book suffused with a gentle humour, with a deep love and sympathy for our fellow creatures. Charles Moseley tackles what we have done to the world of which we are not owners or masters but stewards, not only for our children but for the whole web of life on which everything depends.

Charles Moseley grew up on the Lancashire coast, went up to Cambridge to read English, and never left. His varied career includes being a printer, a publisher and a peasant, but has mainly been teaching literature in Cambridge and attempting to persuade his victims to take this pursuit seriously. He has lived in a little Fenland village for a very long time. He also writes books. <>

Shivkumar Sharma

Staff Reporter.

Celebrated Indian musician and composer Shivkumar Sharma has died at age 84.

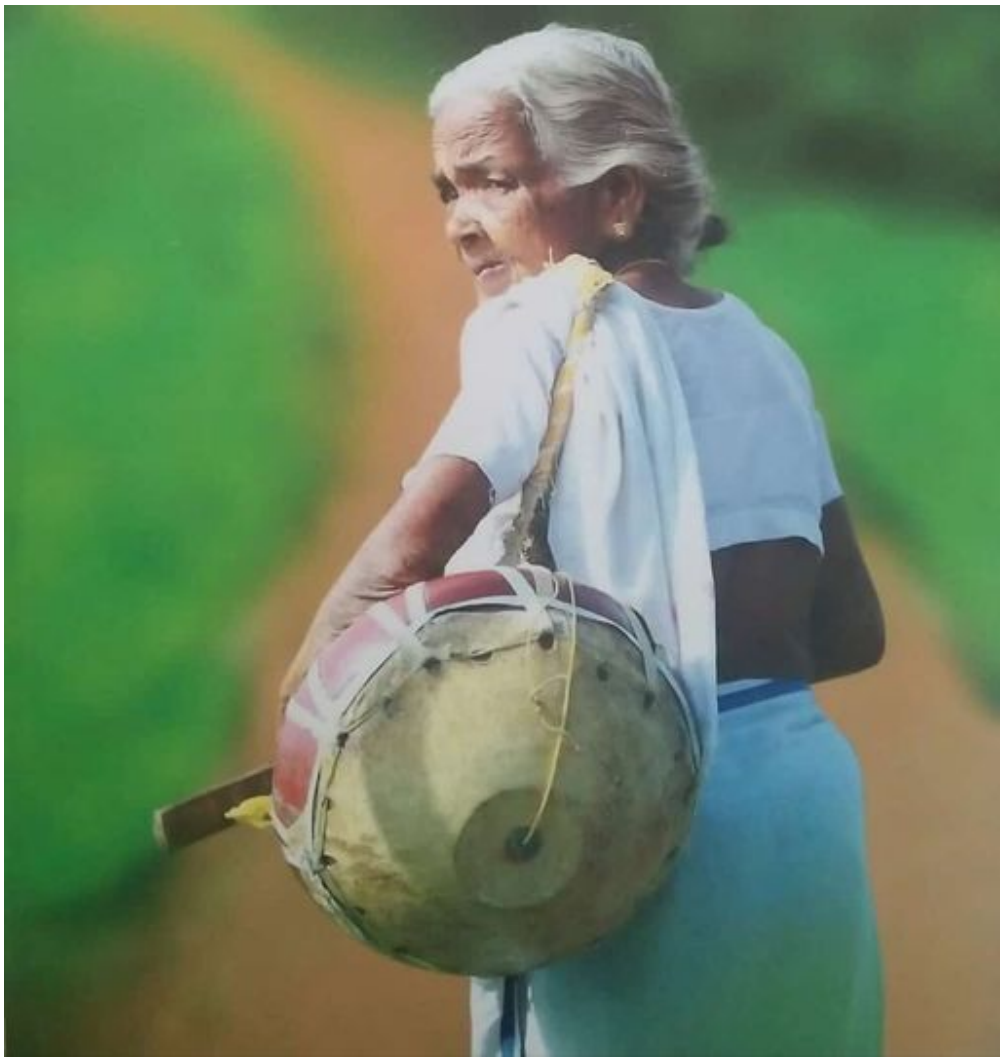
Indian musician and composer Shivkumar Sharma, Born in the city of Jammu in the region of Kashmir on Jan. 13, 1938, who elevated the 100-stringed hammered dulcimer to classical concert stages around the world, died Tuesday in Mumbai at age 84. He created a famously dreamy, almost singing tone for his *santoor* — a feat for an instrument that is played by hitting the many strings with two mallets.

Shivkumar Sharma toured the world frequently, often appearing on stage with tabla master Zakir Hussain. One of his most frequent performance and compositional partners, however, was Hariprasad Chaurasia. In 1967, they teamed up with guitarist Brij Bhushan Kabra for a highly atmospheric and evocative album titled *The Call of the Valley*, which became a hit — both in India and with Western rock musicians who were falling in love at the time with Hindustani (North Indian) classical music, including George Harrison.

Sharma was awarded several prestigious honors in his home country, including the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1986 (the highest prize given to performing artists by the India's National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama) and two high-level governmental awards: the Padma Shri in 1991 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2001.

Narayani

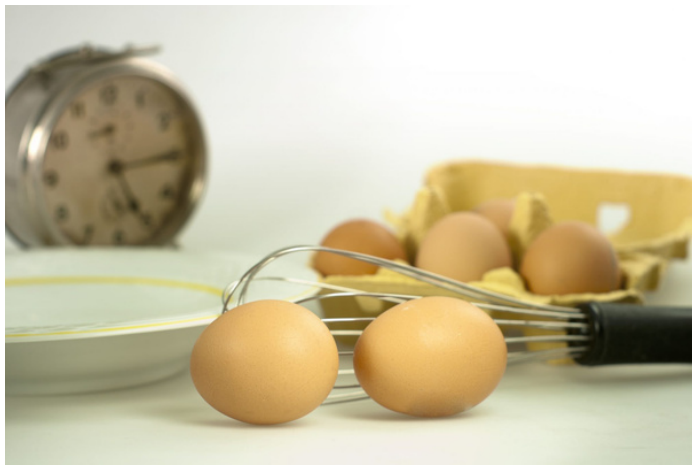
Staff Reporter.



Famous Pulluvan Pattu (ritual song) artist **Kayiliyad Thachampatta Kunnu Narayani** has passed away. Pulluvan Pattu has been active in the art world for over seven decades and has been instrumental in popularising the art form.

Narayani was an integral part of the traditional art of Sarppam Thullal (snake dance) in the villages of Valluvanad (Northern Kerala). Narayani has performed many times on All India Radio and Doordarshan. In some films, Narayani has appeared as a song artist. Tribute to the beloved artist who has always bestowed motherly love and affection.

How to Make the Perfect French Omelette, According to Parisian Chefs



"The pleasure difference between an excellent omelette and a good omelette is vast."

By Emily Monaco

Ingredients

- 2 large eggs
- 2 tablespoons milk
- Pinch kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- Omelet filling

Directions

- Combine the eggs, milk, salt, and pepper in a medium bowl and mix very well with a fork or a whisk.

- Set a plate by the stove. Heat a small (about 6 inches) seasoned omelet pan or non-stick skillet over medium-high heat. When the pan is warm, add the butter (it should sizzle gently). Swirl the pan to distribute the butter as it melts. When the butter stops sizzling and the foam subsides add the eggs. Pause to let the eggs heat slightly and then stir vigorously, with a heatproof spatula, making sure you include the sides of the egg mixture occasionally so the omelet cooks evenly. Once the eggs are just set, bang the pan gently on the burner to release the omelet from the pan. >>

French Omelette

Check to see that it is not sticking to the sides or bottom of the pan, if so release the omelet with a heat proof spatula. Hold the pan at a 45-degree angle to the stove and carefully fold the omelet like a business letter. Cook just until the desired degree of doneness lifting the pan or reducing the heat to prevent browning. (A classic omelet doesn't have any browning on it.) Transfer to a warm plate and serve.

- Omelet Filling Suggestions: There are many omelet fillings, both raw and cooked, sweet and savory. Here is a starting point, but feel free to improvise. Once the eggs are set add any of these ingredients before folding. An alternative method, to use with delicate fillings, like creme fraiche and herbs, fresh fruits or caviar; is it to roll the omelet and then slice the top open, as you would a baked potato, and then fill it.

- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh herbs, like Italian parsley, basil, dill, tarragon, chives, thyme, and chervil. Use the herbs alone or in combination, like the classic combination fine herbs (equal parts parsley, chervil, chives and tarragon.) Brush the finished omelet with butter and sprinkle with additional herbs. Herbs can also be added to the omelet mixture to flavor the eggs more fully. >>

French Omelette

- 2 to 3 tablespoons cooked vegetables like, chopped asparagus, spinach or other greens, zucchini, mushrooms, eggplant or peppers
- 2 tablespoons diced fresh tomato or avocado
- 2 tablespoons grated cheese, like Gruyere, Goat cheese, Cheddar, Monterey Jack, Gouda, Feta
- 1 tablespoon currant jelly, then dust omelet with confectioner's sugar
- 2 tablespoons chopped proscuitto or other ham, crumbled cooked bacon or other cured meat
- 1 to 2 tablespoons chopped smoked salmon or trout, with a tablespoon sour cream, cream cheese or creme fraiche
- 1 tablespoon honey with 1 tablespoon ricotta cheese
- 2 to 3 tablespoons sliced apples, pears or strawberries, alone or with a complimentary cheese <>

കാടുമുഴക്കി
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo
(Dicrurus paradiseus)
21/04/22 Chengamanad, Kerala

OneWeek
OneShot

By:
SUNNY JOSEPH

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Portraying KERALA

Kuttan Maraar

Watercolour
By Akil Upasana

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